

Application No.: 10/824275
Amendment dated: February 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended). A playing surface comprising:
at least two layers of artificial turf in edge-to-edge relationship with each other, each said layer comprising a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a pile composed of grass-like, extruded, pigmented, polymeric ribbons secured to the backing and extending upward from said top surface;
and
means securing said artificial turf layers to each other;
and
at least two cushioning layer underlying said artificial turf layers, and means securing said cushioning layers to each other in edge-to-edge relationship;
wherein said layers of artificial turf have bottom sides composed of polyurethane or latex; and
wherein said means securing said artificial turf layers to each other is a tape comprising a layer of polyamide hot-melt adhesive having a ball and ring softening point not greater than approximately 150°C.

2 (cancelled).

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3(previously presented). A playing surface according to claim 1, in which said tape includes glass fiber yarns embedded in said layer of adhesive.

4(previously presented). A playing surface according to claim 1, in which said layer of polyamide hot-melt adhesive has a ball and ring softening point of approximately 140°C.

5(original). A playing surface according to claim 4, in which said tape includes glass fiber yarns embedded in said layer of adhesive.

6(original). A playing surface according to claim 1, in which said cushioning layers are composed of rubber particles in a binder, and in which said means securing said cushioning layers to each other in edge-to-edge relationship is a tape comprising a layer of polyamide hot-melt adhesive having a ball and ring softening point not greater than approximately 150°C.

7(original). A playing surface according to claim 6, in which said tape comprises a backing of woven polyester fabric.

8(original). A playing surface according to claim 1, in which said cushioning layers are composed of rubber particles in a binder, and in which said means securing said cushioning layers to each other in edge-to-edge relationship is a tape comprising a layer of polyamide hot-melt adhesive having a ball and ring softening point of approximately 140°C.

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9(currently amended). A playing surface according to claim 8, in which said tape comprises a backing of woven polyester fabric.

10(currently amended). A playing surface comprising:
two layers of artificial turf in edge-to-edge, coplanar, relationship with each other along a seam, each said layer comprising a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a pile composed of grass-like, ~~polymeric tufts~~ extruded, pigmented, polymeric ribbons secured to the backing and extending upward from said top surface, said bottom surface being composed of an elastomer from the group consisting of polyurethane and latex; and
a elongated tape comprising a backing sheet having a top surface, a coating of polyamide hot-melt adhesive on said top surface, said adhesive having a ball and ring softening point not greater than approximately 150°C, and reinforcing fibers embedded in said coating of hot-melt adhesive;
said tape extending along said seam with a part of the tape being underneath one of said two layers and a part of the tape being underneath the other of said two layers; and
said hot-melt adhesive bonding said reinforcing fibers to the bottom surfaces of the backings of both said layers of artificial turf, whereby said two layers of artificial turf are secured to each other.

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11(currently amended). A playing surface comprising:
two layers of artificial turf in coplanar relationship with each other and separated from each other by a uniform distance, each said layer comprising a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a pile composed of grass-like, ~~polymeric tufts~~ extruded, pigmented, polymeric ribbons secured to the backing and extending upward from said top surface, said bottom surface being composed of an elastomer from the group consisting of polyurethane and latex;

a third layer of artificial turf disposed between said two layers, said third layer having parallel side edges, and being in edge-to edge relationship with each of said two layers, said third layer also comprising a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a pile composed of grass-like, ~~polymeric tufts~~ extruded, pigmented, polymeric ribbons secured to the backing and extending upward from its top surface, said bottom surface of the third layer also being composed of an elastomer from the group consisting of polyurethane and latex, and said third layer being narrower, in the direction of said uniform distance, than either of said two layers;

a elongated tape underlying said third layer and extending laterally beyond said side edges, the tape comprising a backing sheet having a top surface, a coating of hot-melt polyamide adhesive on said top surface, said adhesive having a ball and ring softening point not greater than approximately 150°C, and reinforcing fibers embedded in said coating of hot-melt adhesive

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said coating covering at least a first area of the tape underlying at least a part of the first layer and at least a part of the third layer, and also covering a second area of the tape underlying at least a part of said second layer and at least a part of the third layer;

said hot-melt adhesive bonding reinforcing fibers on said tape to the bottom surfaces of one of said two layers and said third layer of artificial turf, and also bonding reinforcing fibers on said tape to the bottom surfaces of the other of said two layers and said third layer artificial turf, whereby said three layers of artificial turf are secured-to one another.

12-13(cancelled)